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THE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

DISCOVERERS OF AMERICA

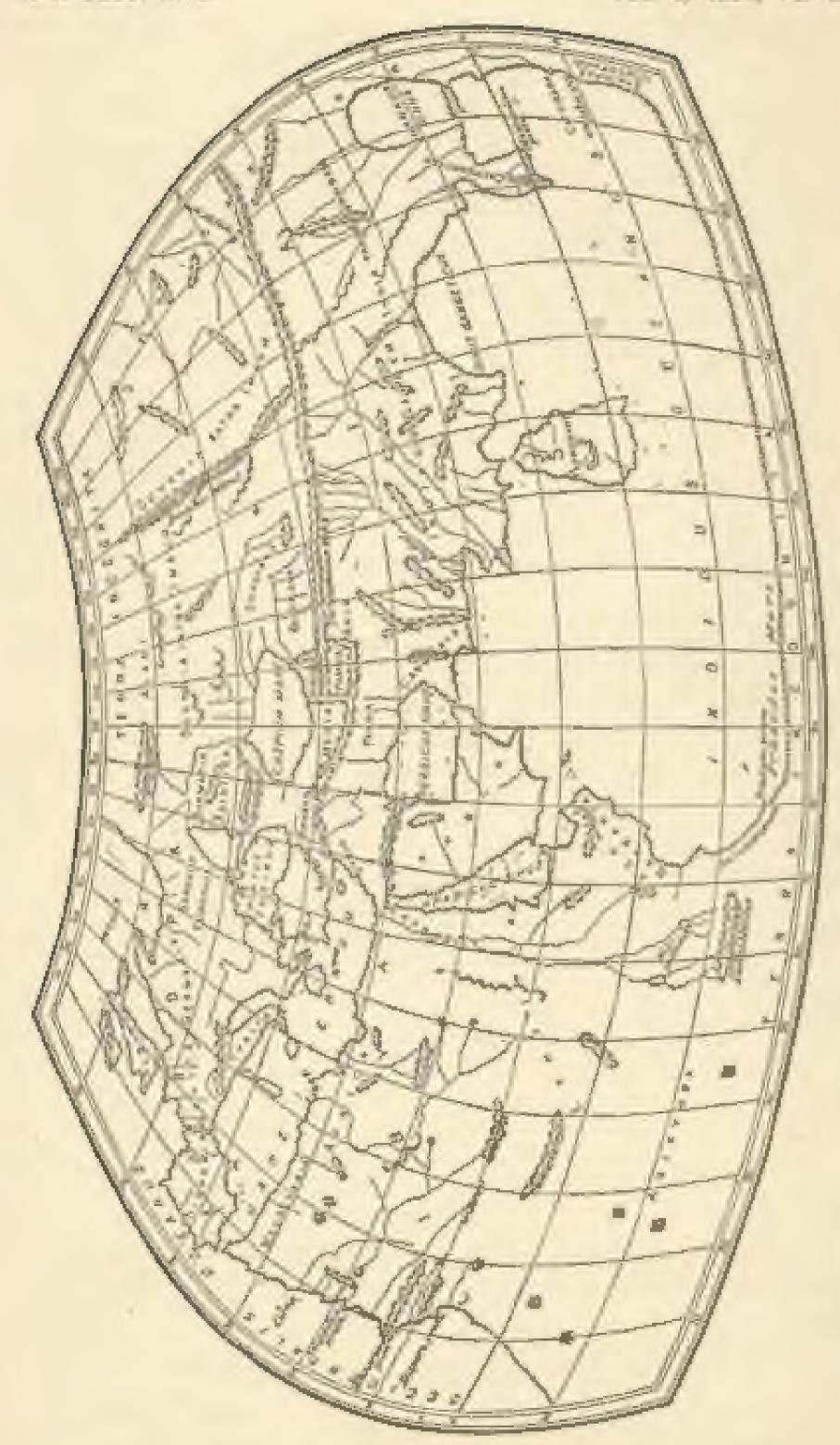
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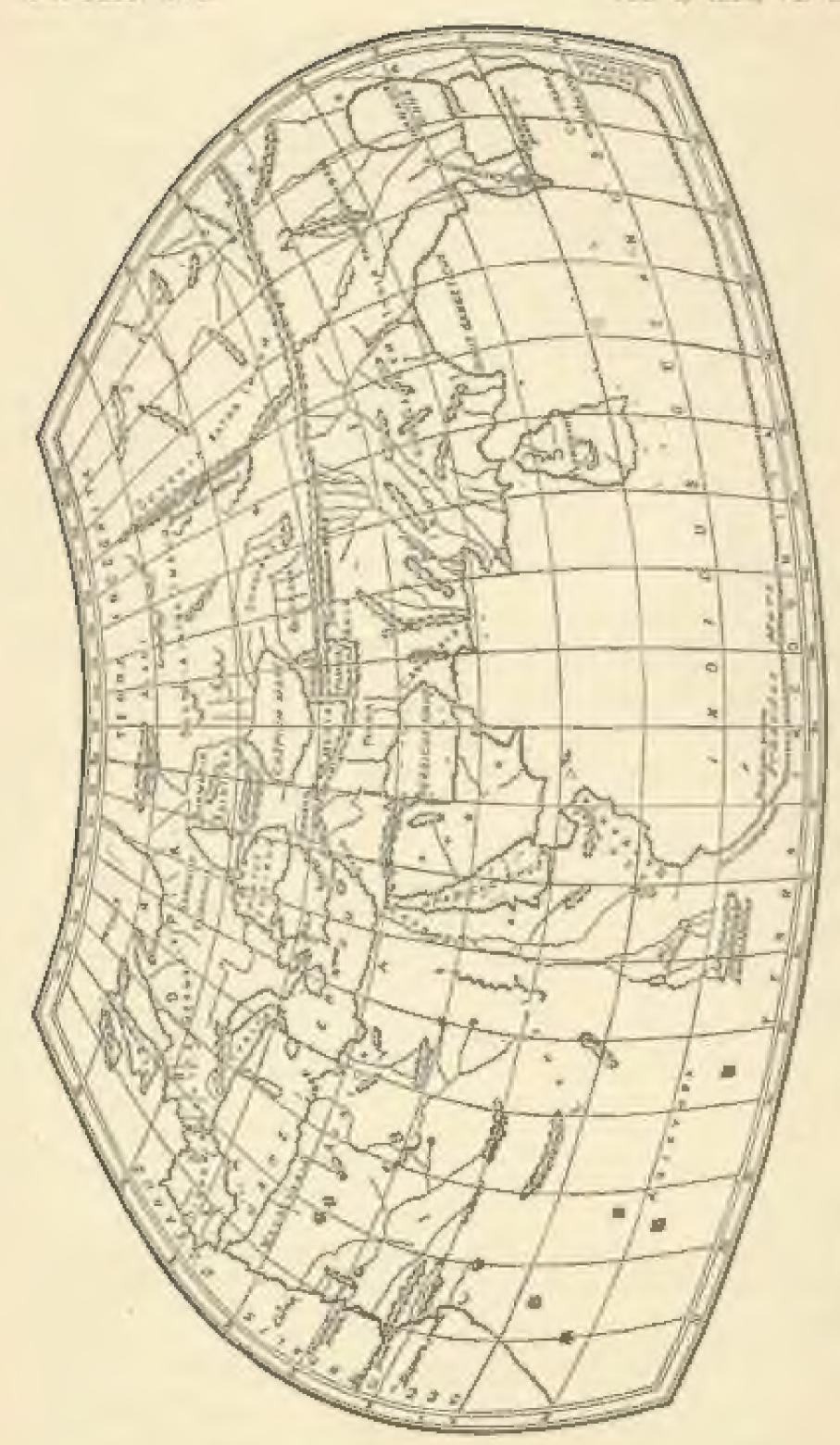


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DISCOVERERS OF AMERICA

ANNUAL ARRESTS BY THE PRESIDENT HON GARDINGE G. HUBBARD

Present I before the Society Jonesery 14, 1823)

It is appropriate that we should take as the plants of our annual address for the year 18-2 the discoverers of America.

The discovery of America was the work not of one explorer but of many, carried on during a long series of years, beginning with the Northmen, continued by Columbus, Vesponius, Magellan and Drake, and analog only with the mineteenth century.

Before we speak of the discoverers let us hastily review the condition of the old world prior to the discovery of the new.

Two thousand years ago philosophers generally believed the world to be round, and the most noted of uncient geographers. Eratasthenes, computed its circumference at 25,200 geographic miles. The true figure is 21,000 geographic unites or 24,539 English miles.

Problems, two hundred years later, estimated it at 15,000 good purpose police, and made a series of twenty six maps, showing the the equator and the zones north of the equator, with parallels of latitude and mendance of longitude. As his base like was too short and his knowledge of places was generally derived only

^{1-518,} brown, Mass., 191, L. Lewis,

from seather who had no a strade theans of determining distances, his maps, though showing most of the countries of Europe, As a and markers Africa plan 145, were uncertainted and markinable, though vastly superiors, those of a later date. These maps were other entirely lost so that if or so changed by the preferal extravagnores of the nonpanakers of a recording ages as to be of little value (plates 2 % and 4).

St Augustine. Thomas Aquings and other fathers of the church believed the earth to be a vast pain. They said with Israels that the heaven which embraces the universe is a squit; with Job, that it is joined to the earth; and with Moses, that the length of the earth is greater than the breadth. This may inside I was the teaching of the world of those and must be accepted. These who believed that the world might be round believed that there exists for that there exists no inhaliantness on the other side for that there exists of the earth shall one the Son of Man coming in the clouds of beaven with power and great great great.

The famous bull of Alexander VI, published in 1493 which gave all nearly discovered and one hundred leagues west of the Acons to the Spanishes and all east of that line; to foringal inspeed that the earth was a plain.

For Like years science and the church were in opposition as to the shape of the earth, and there were very few, who lever might be their convections, who dered question the insalliality of the church. Thus all progress in natural science was checked and geography and map making practically reused to exist.

Early in the fourteenth century Moreo Polo's book of tracts appeared. The error by mercaced goographic knowledge and had a live thank maring on the discovery of America.

In the preceding century the father and uncload Marco Polonarehants of Venice, made two journeys to the court of the great Khais Kalidai, in contern them. On the second journey Marco Polo accompanied his father and uncle. They went by Person weer the Paper mornishes, through Turkestan, across, the great desert of Bold, and through Margolia to China. There they pesited for many years, and by the Khair on several missions and

[&]quot;Thursday Prolemy's map of the world circa A D Too, forming the enveropence of the produced from "The Discovery of America." by John Fishe, 1802, vol. i. p. 260.

I Photolithographed directly from the "Chromeon Kurombargame" interpose Hurtings Schooled 1 (193, 500, 200.

Shown in the Jean he la Cosa map, poste L.

herough the China sen and lection occan to india, stopping at the Philippine and Space islands, Squaten and Ceylon; from India they traveled by land through Persia and Asia Minor, and by the Black and Modiferranean sens to Venice. Seem after his return Marco Polo was taken prisoner by the Conocea and Juring his captivity wrete an accurate description of the countries through which he traveled and in which he had tived so many years and of the island of Cippago or Japan, with its inexhaustible riches of gold and pearls, 500 miles cast of China. He also described the voyages of the Chinese to the islands of the Pacific, to Ceylon, and to India, and of the rich trade carried on by the Molatopadans between the Spice tshands, India and the Mediferranean. These faceds became gradually known to geographic study, in the fifteenth control gave a new mapules to geographic study.

About the same time the old maps of Piolemy, which had been hopelossly obscured by the graphic function of the connectaphers of the dark ages, were, with his writings, brought, cone to hast to had. The norpe of the dark ages showed the Mediterranean and the countries around a Arabia, Piecea, Media, ong and Magog, and a little of northern Arriva; but so varuely and incorrectly that today one would searcely recognize these countries on existing coaps.

Toscanelli, an Italian, prepared a map about 1174, taking the traces of Marca Polo as his goods. On other maps Cathay, or China, had been delineated as east of Furepe; Toscanelli's trace-fereous to the west. His name shows the Atlantic ocean, Cipacgo 100° west of Europe, and still further westward, Cathay. He sent a copy of this map to the King of Louigal, and subsequently another to Commons urging him to make his contemplated voyings to "The band where the spaces are hore, where the temples and royal palaces are covered with plants of gold" (plate 3°).

Let us consider the condition of Europe at the time of the voytees of the Northmou to America, and the great changes which were gradually pressuring the way for the colonization of America.

For nearly our thousand years It I the shape of Tyre and Sidon. Alexandria and Grosse, sailed through the Michiterranean into the Atlantic occur as far as Britaes. The early stators were more adventurous and their shaps more acasembly than those of

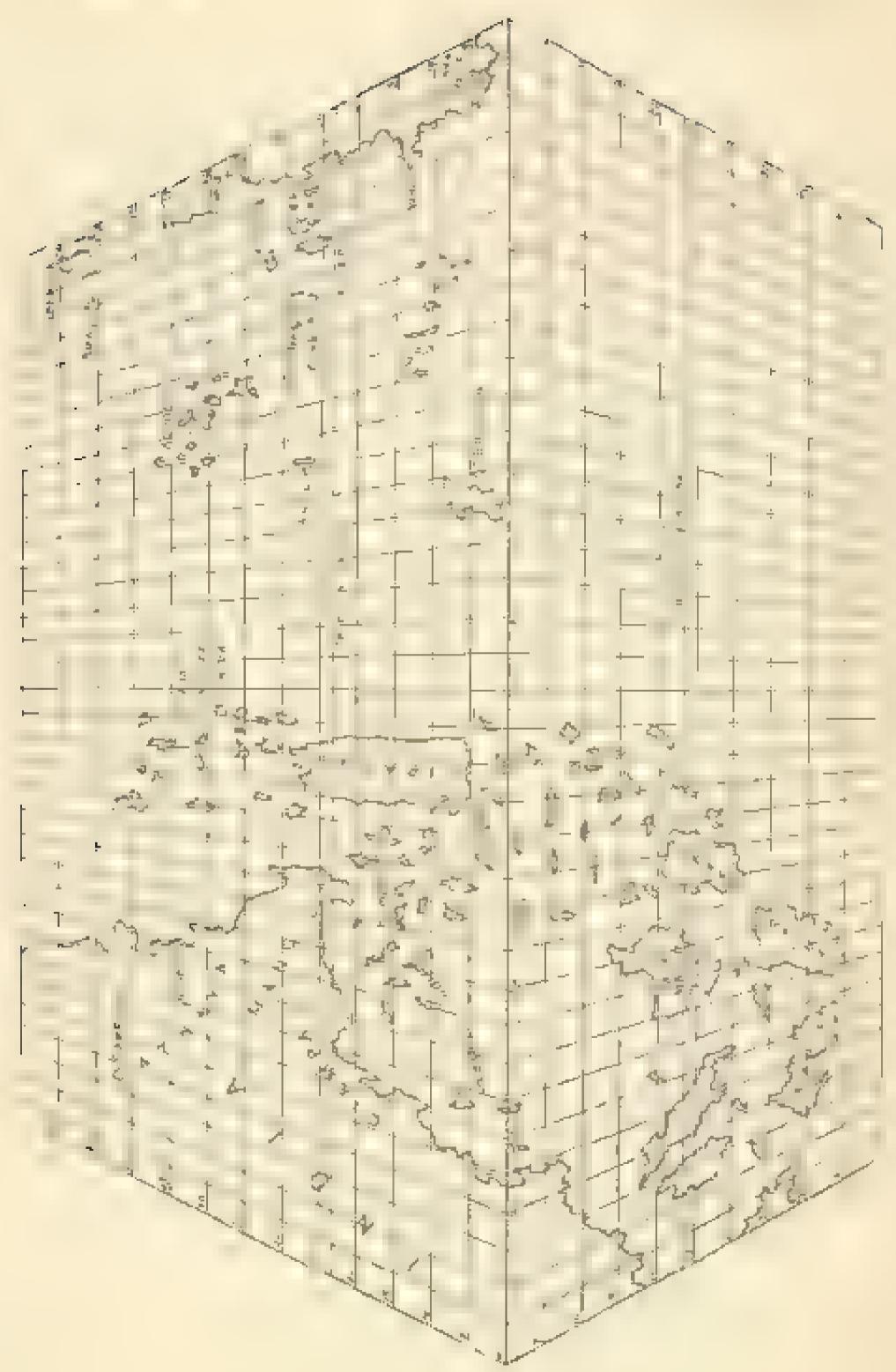
^{*} Reproduced from Fiske, op. cit. p. 357.

Columbias, but no the restincts' compass was not known they much ventured out of agint of land.

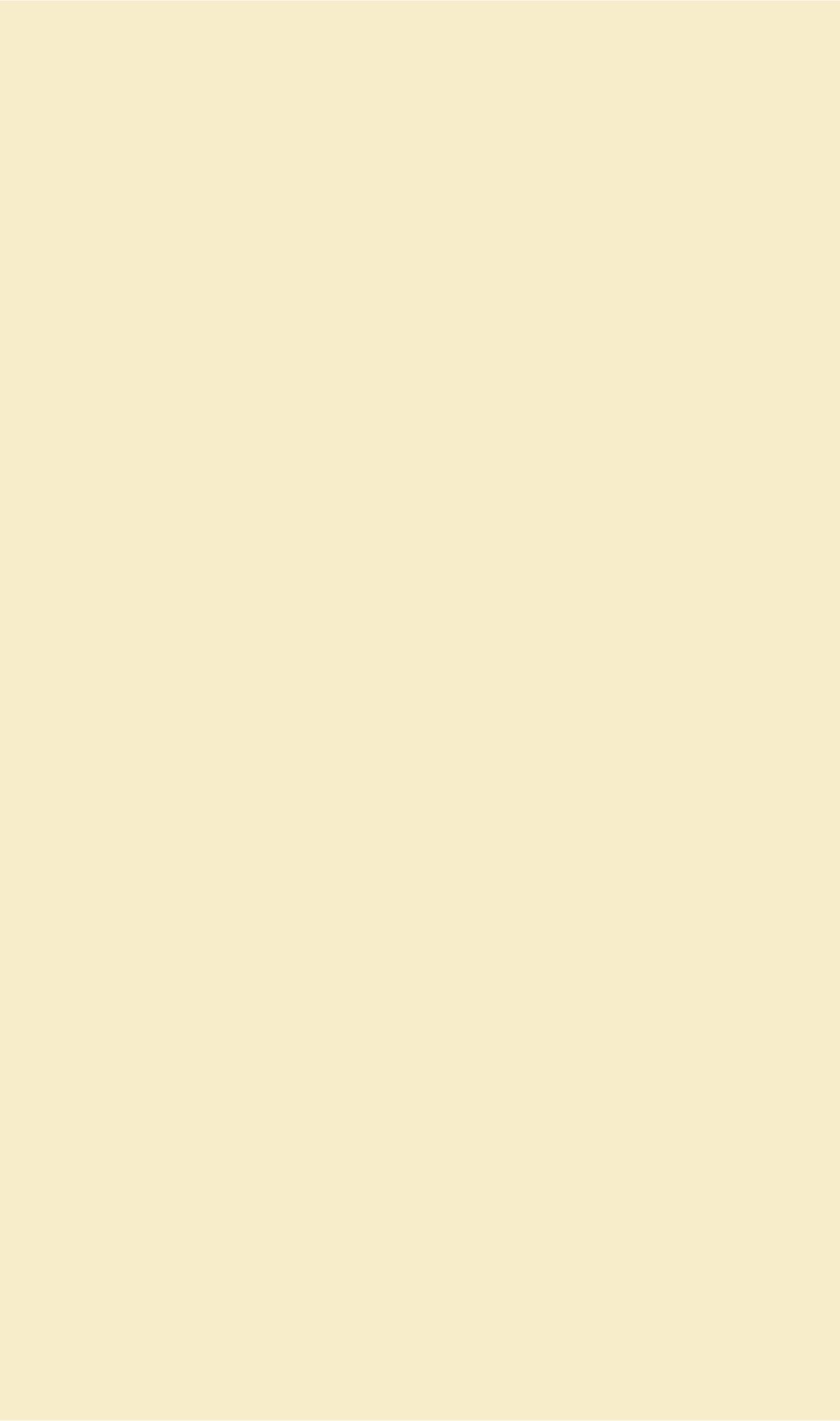
When frome because the imporial city commerce, as well as dotaining and authority, conternal in River, and with her docline and fall shipping and continuence the present from the Meditoreanesa.

Then, for away in the north on the Partie sea the North went began to sail the ocean not for discovery or commerce but to plureder and ravage re-her countries than their own. The vikmas became poted as bold rovers of the sea, pillaging every country they could reach by water. Sailing scuttive stward, they builted on the court of France and made a permanent settlement in Normandy. They consted along the shores of France and Spain, plumiering as they want, passing the Pillars of Hergules into the M-literranears, they ravoued the coast of Italy and established colonies in southern links and Sicily. Saming westward, they conquered and colonized the eastern coast of England and Scotland, the Sheriand, Orkney and Faron hantels, and from these islands, in A D 550, they sailed 550 or 460 moles morthwestward to become where they prade settlements which have contranot until our lay. One of the early settlers of Issuand was driven by adverse winds to Greenhand, where he was compelled to winter, returning in the spring with an account of his observery. About 986, Krie the Red, an outbaw, fled from Tecland with a few feiends to Greenland. Prevented by the rederes from Isnaine on the castorn coast, they sailed around cape Farewell to the western const where they founded two small colonies near Julianshare, which existed for four hundred years until, forgotten and ungbeted by the mother country, overcome by want and hurger. they execumbed to the directe and the attacks of the Eskimo. Shortly after Eric had colonized Greenland, Barni, another Northman sading for Greenland, was driven by northmasterly winds continuing for many days for southwestward, to a land rovers I with dense woods. Trace is every reason to believe that this was America, and that Burri was its first discovery. it was not the hand of ice and glackers be was seeking, so he sailed northeastward again, and in the days reached freeeland

Leit Ericsson, one of the Norse vikings, hearing of this land of whools, about the year 1000 sained from the conford in nearth of it. Passing the learns courts of Labradov and Newfoundland, which he called Holluland, his party reached Nova Scotia, or Markland, and sailed southward to a place where they found propes, and hence called it Vineband. They were surprised at the



TOSCANELLI MAP 1474



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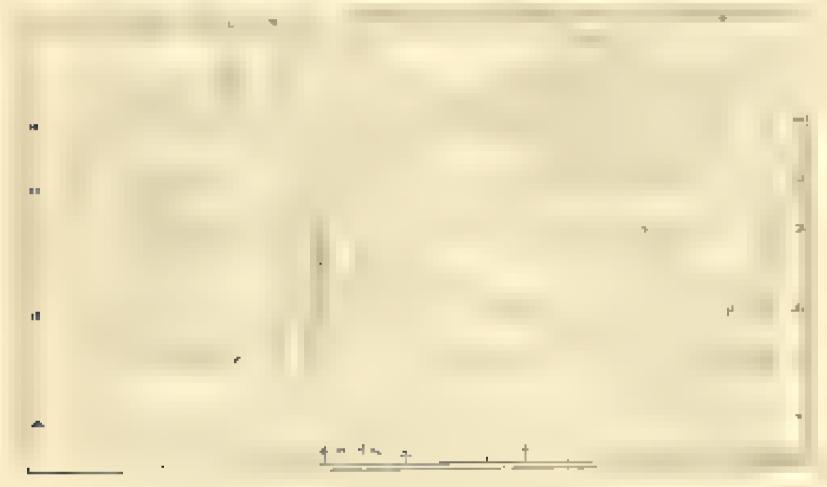
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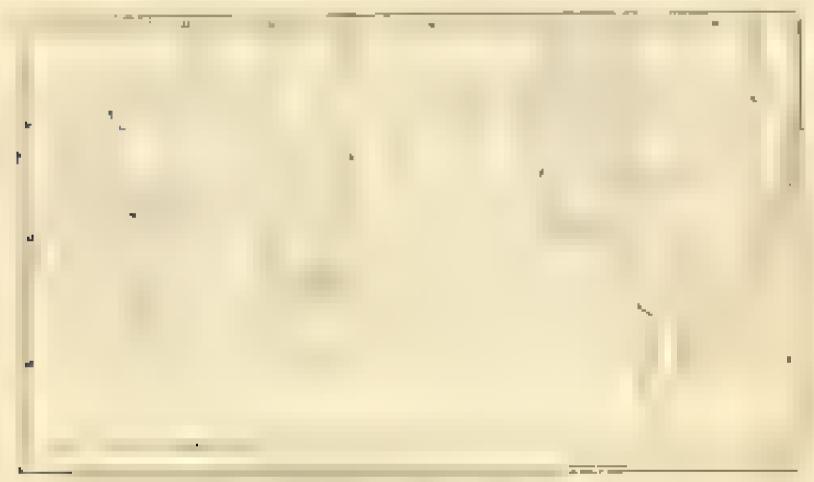
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west. North America and South America are connected and the America continent is shown south of the straits of Magellan.

There was no map published until after the sixteenth century that gave a correct delineation of the seccoast of America. It is no wooder that Commbus never comprehended the unture or extent or his discoveries. The more we souly the history and geogeaphy of the times, the influence of the church, the collectly of determining localitate, the ignorance of the mevenents of the Reachage compass and of the restance to Capazzo, the greater well be our admiration for Columbias. Yel a recent water speaks of the discovery of Columbus as a blunder, and others say, as if in disparagoment of his work, that he know of the discoveries of the Northmen and was only following their track; that the chart of Toscanell) which Columbia took on his first voyage Inducated clearly his route; that Columbus and in the belief that he had discovered Upmuro and Cutlay, never realizing that it was the more world, and that Americus Vesputer is a cutitled to the greater Crocks.

Let us hear the opinion of a contemporary of Colon bus, Sebastian Cabot: "When news was brought that Don Christopher Colon, the Genesse, had discovered the coasts of India, whereof was great talks in all the court of King Henry the VII, who then reigned, all men with great a intration affirmed it to be a thing more divine then humane to said by the west into the easts, where the spices grows, by a chart that was naver before known."

It is very doubtful if Columbus knew anything of the voyages of the Northmen, nor would such knowledge have been of touck watner for Greenland was then believed to be a part of Europe and joined to Norway. If Columbus had known of the discoveries and sought the countries they had found, he would have sailed northwestward instead of westward.

Many before Toscapelli and Columbus is lieved the world to be round, and that by saling westward Asia might be reached. Columbus not only believed but proved it. He made no blunder, for the sometiment land the other side of the Atlantic, and he found it. Vespecias knew little more than Columbus of the new world, and power realized that North America and South America were one continent. The maps show that learned geographers long after the discoveries of Columbus. Vespecias, Cabot and Magellan did not nuderstand this geography of the new world.

All voyages before that of Columbus had been construg voyages, the smloss heeping in sight of hard. Calumbus pushed not into the unknown and trackless ocean, bearing the land for behind. Good seamen were nowlling to undertake so terrible a voyage, so convicts were obtained, liberated from prison on condition of sailing with Connections. A brove, resolute and selfcontained spiral with processary to continued such a crew on such an expedition. New wooden startled him cach day. The meanette nordle, instead of pointing steadily northward, everyed toward the west. The wind for many days blew nuverviously from the east and the sailors knought it would prevent their in m returning. The Satugonea see purched them. They daily riese more mond as they sailed mirther and further into the ocean, though they had miled much further than they supposed. No vorage like that was ever made before and more like it can evet be made again, for the great discoverer solved the problem and reached the east by sailing west.

How like a tracedy the life of Columbus! Twelve years of preparation and waiting five in Portugal and seven at the court of Isabetia; his demand; its rejection; has recall; his departure from Poles with three small vessels; his tramphant roturn after the discovery of America, admiral and governor; sent home in chains; his death, poor, unknown and forgotton. Contrast this with what has recently taken place at Poles. Lest September (1892) the greatest war ships of the world from Spain Rady, formancy, Great Britain and the United States, propelled by a power unknown to Columbus, excepted from the harbor of Pales Ordens Bittle ships, two without docks, policional after the ships of Columbus.

At the time of Columbus death none to honor him; new all Europe and the new world make in removing him the greatest homogo over paid to man!



